

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 1-26 are pending, and are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-21 were withdrawn from consideration based on Applicants' provisional election. Claims 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102, 103, and 112.

II. Restriction Requirement.

Applicants hereby affirm their provisional election to prosecute Claims 22-26.

III. The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejections.

Claim 22 has been amended in response to the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph rejection of Claims 22-26.

Claims 22 and 23 have been amended in response to the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph rejections thereof.

Claim 24 has been cancelled.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended in response to the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph rejections thereof.

IV. The 35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections.

The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as being anticipated by PCT Publication WO 01/05920, Aubay, et al. be withdrawn.

Claim 22 has been amended to specify that the step (d) involves rinsing the surface of the vehicle with purified rinse water using a hose-end water purifying device. It should be understood, however, that this is merely one embodiment, and the Applicants may pursue claims directed to other embodiments of the method that do not utilize a hose-end water purifying device.

The Aubay, et al. reference does not teach or disclose a method for cleaning the surface of a vehicle that comprises, among other things, a step of rinsing the surface of the vehicle with purified rinse water, nor does it disclose a process that uses a hose-end water purifying device.

V. The 35 U.S.C. Section 103 Rejections.

The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 01/05920, Aubay, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 3,502,215 issued to Cahan be withdrawn.

The Cahan reference is directed to a water reclamation method and apparatus for reclaiming and reusing water in a commercial vehicle washing operation. The combination of references does not teach or disclose a method for cleaning the surface of a vehicle that comprises, among other things, a step of rinsing the surface of the vehicle with purified rinse water using a hose-end water purifying device.

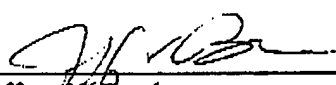
VI. The Double Patenting Rejection.

The Applicants will consider submitting a terminal disclaimer when allowable subject matter is indicated.

VII. Summary.

All of the rejections have been addressed. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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